

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SY-05 /039 W

----- 013491

R 161230Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2317

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBAN 0393

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT SF

SUBJECT: BUTHELEZI DESIRE TO MEET US OFFICIALS

REF: CAPE TOWN 0455; STATE 097494; DURBAN 0305

1. REFTELS DISCUSS EFFORTS MADE EARLIER THIS YEAR, EITHER BY BUTHELEZI DIRECTLY OR ON HIS BEHALF, TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH SECRETARY OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE. MOST RECENTLY (JULY 4) BUTHELEZI TOLD CONGEN HE WAS NOT CURRENTLY SEEKING ANY APPOINTMENT.

2. BUTHELEZI NOW HAS MENTIONED TO CONGEN OFFICERS HIS INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING SOME CONTACT WITH DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIALS. IN AUGUST 14 AND 16 TELCONS HE ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF SEEING EITHER SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON OR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHAUFELE DURING RUMORED FORTHCOMING SA VISIT. BUTHELEZI SAID CURRENT SITUATION IN SA MAKES IT IMPORTANT HE CONVEY BLACK VIEWS TO US OFFICIALS. IF POSSIBLE TO MEET LATTER IN SOUTH AFRICA, HE WOULD LIKE THAT. ALTERNATIVELY, HE HAS OPEN INVITATIONS TO VISIT US FROM LOS ANGELES WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL AND FROM WILLAMETTE COLLEGE. WHILE DATES HAVE NOT BEEN DETERMINED, HE WONDERED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CALL ON SECRETARY OR OTHER OFFICIAL IN DEPARTMENT DURING A TRIP TO US. CONGEN OFFICERS WERE NONCOMMITAL IN REPLY BUT UNDERTOOK TO PASS BUTHELEZI'S REQUEST TO OUR AUTHORITIES.

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3. COMMENT: CONGEN SOURCES REPORT THAT BUTHELEZI IS UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE RECENTLY FROM RADICAL BLACKS WHO EQUATE HIS ADVOCACY OF RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR BY BLACKS IN SOWETO TO UNDERMINING AFRICAN NATIONALIST CAUSE. A PAMPHLET TO THIS EFFECT ENTITLED "CHALLENGE" CURRENTLY IS BEING CIRCULATED IN DURBAN TOWNSHIPS. BUTHELEZI IS DESCRIBED AS INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT HIS LEADERSHIP POSITION AND IMAGE. HIS DESIRE TO MEET WITH US OFFICIALS MAY ARISE, IN PART, FROM THIS CONSIDERATION. ASSUME EMBASSY PRETORIA WILL COMMENT FURTHER.
FARBER

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